

I. Project Title and Project Purpose Statement

Applicant: Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians

Project Title: Our Clean Land – Los Coyotes Solid Waste Reduction Project

Project Purpose Statement: The “Our Clean Land” Project for the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians herein referred to as the Los Coyote Band of Indians will support the development of community outreach programs targeting solid waste management including but not limited to promoting a tribal recycling program, support bi-annual workshops on waste prevention, support solid waste management for the Tribe’s Environmental Department and lastly support the initial planning states for a Solid Waste Management transfer station for the reservation. The project has been developed as the next logical step in its solid waste management plans as the Tribe is currently completely its first sets of solid waste ordinances through its Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) GAP program. “Our Clean Land” would focus on education opportunities for Tribal members on the importance of solid waste management, increased training of current Tribal Environmental staff, and most importantly it would help fund the next stages of planning for a solid waste transfer station for the Tribe.

II. Environmental, Public Health, and Community Climate Resiliency Information for the Los Coyotes

Los Coyotes – Location and Population

The Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians is a federally recognized Tribe located near the small, rural town of Warner Springs (zip code 92086), in southeast San Diego County, in the state of California. The reservation land is comprised of 25,000 acres which are nestled between rural San Diego and rural Riverside County. Los Coyotes' total Reservation land area of 25,000 acres borders private residences, two small towns, state and federal offices, a school, a small golf- resort and hotel, as well as other businesses, including the State of California Fire Station (known as cal Fire) in the vicinity. The surrounding communities' population is approximately 10,000 individuals.

The current tribal enrollment for the reservation is approximately 385 individual, of which approximately 120 are residing on the reservation land in approximately 50 houses. The Los Coyotes reservation land base is the largest reservation in the county of San Diego. San Diego County has more Indian reservations than any other county in the United States. However, the total reservation lands are very small, with total land holdings of just over 124,000 acres, or about 193 square miles of the 4,205 square miles in San Diego County (reservation acreage source from the San Diego County Tax Assessor), just over 4%. 2000 Census Bureau estimates state that approximately 20,000 Native Americans reside within the County of San Diego.

The Our Clean Land project has been created to address the local environmental concern of solid waste management disposal on the Los Coyotes reservation. Although dumping is currently prohibited on the reservation and the Tribe's Environmental Department is currently completing solid waste ordinances for the Tribe, illegal dumping is a concern to the Tribe and dumps continue to exist on the reservation. As there is no residential pick up service for Tribal Community members due to the limited resources of the Tribe, the Tribe instead provides dumpsters for residents to utilize at various locations on reservation using a certified solid waste refuse company.

The Los Coyotes Environmental Department feels that reservation residents continue to have several problem areas regarding solid waste disposal. The current contracted solid waste pick-up does not cover large items such as, tires, inoperable appliances, automotive parts, and depreciated furniture. In addition, no recycling of household green wastes or plastics is done. Due to a lack of clear policies regarding Solid Waste Management, reservation members occasionally bury, or dump their solid waste. Currently members utilize dumpsters, no burning or dumping is allowed on reservation. This is a large environmental concern to the Tribe as the burying and dumping of solid waste leads can produce toxic chemicals that have the potential to leech into the ground, which in turn, can contaminate ground soil and water. This can adversely affect vegetation, wild life and the health of reservation residents. The dumping of solid waste in areas not identified as solid waste dumps can lead to the leaking of hazardous toxins, in addition to providing an area and debris that can attract insects and scavenging animals.

Despite these setbacks, the Tribal Environmental Department has worked diligently to continue its solid waste management efforts. Recent efforts include a cleaned up of the San Ysidro dump site in November 2013, and initial cleanup of Los Tules Dump site. However, the Los Tules dump site turned out to be ten times larger than first assessed, and additional clean ups will require additional funding to complete the cleanup process. The Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla Cupeno Indians are continuously seeking and requesting funds in The USEPA GAP funding to clean all historic dumps on the reservation.

The development of transfer station facility will first require training for a solid waste technician, and the Environmental Director. A purposed facility would have to support solid waste disposal, HHW, Recycling, and composting (at a minimum). This would require large facility metal pre fab building, compactor for paper and cardboard, compactor or cubing equipment for aluminum, designated area for HHW or Hazardous waste, scales, bins, computer, and other items as well. Trainings that will be attended include trainings conducted by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) which is the leading professional association in the solid waste field.

The Tribe realizes that the next step towards the goal of developing a transfer station is not only to conduct public education but which they feel will bolster awareness but to train community members and leaders as well. With this in mind, the Department will complement their outreach efforts, with additional training not only to its staff but for its tribal members. In support this program, tribal council has pledge to send a member to SWANA training.

The Los Coyotes Band of Indians Environmental Department is seeking funding from the EPA's 2015 Environmental Justice Small Grants Program to support community outreach and education for the Tribe and to continue to build important tribal infrastructure related to waste management on its lands.

II. Organization's Historic Connection to the Affected Community

The Los Coyotes has had an Environmental program since 2000 and it currently operates under the supervision of Director, John C Parada who has been in this position for over a year.

The Tribal Environmental Department currently makes regular efforts to increase the community's capacity to address local environmental issues. These efforts include: Conducting an annual earth day event, participating in other Tribal Earth Day events, meeting with Tribal Council and General Council on a minimum quarterly basis. In addition, the Environmental Director meets monthly with Tribal Council on a one and one basis. Current goals for the 2015/16 program year include: Developing and maintaining community education and outreach efforts including beginning development of educational outreach video and quarterly visual reports to inform the General Council of the Tribal environmental program progress and issues. Staff will continue to work with the local school district and communities on relevant matters of environmental information and education. Los Coyotes Environmental staff will continue to build close relationships with neighboring Tribes, USEPA and other organizations to ensure effective communications and implementation of Tribal environmental programs.

The Los Coyotes Environmental Office currently consists of two full-time staff; an Environmental Director and Program Secretary, and one 3/4 time Environmental Assistant, and one 3/4 time Environmental Technician, and one half time Community Coordinator. The office hires temporary/part-time staff and consultants as needed.

IV. Project Description

Our Clean Land – Project Goals

The Los Coyotes Environmental Department seeks to accomplish the following activities with this funding:

1. Provide information to tribal members on tribal recycling programs, waste prevention and education.
2. Train current staff and one tribal council member on Solid Waste Management collection and management
3. Develop an in home recycling program.
4. Begin initial planning stages for a SWM transfer station.

Outcomes of these activities include:

1. Properly managed reservation solid waste, increase in solid waste removal from dump sites on reservation.
2. Decrease in solid waste dumping on reservation land.
3. Increase in knowledge of proper solid waste disposal
4. Increased knowledge of recycling.
5. Increase in knowledge for environmental education on pollution prevention, protection and preservation of Tribal Lands
6. Increase administrative capacity in effective management of reservation solid waste.

It is important to note that once the “Our Clean Land” project activities are complete, the Tribe’s Environmental Department can further involved its tribal members in the planning for activities including the construction of a transfer station and green waste recycling programs, which will ultimately lead towards the tribe being self-sustained with regards to clean-up of its generated solid waste. The Tribe is aware that its current Solid Waste Management system does little to address the management of the previously stated large solid waste materials.

The attached “Project Performance Lables” document identifies the outputs and outcomes that had been designed to educate and empower the Los Coyote Tribal members on solid waste management issues. Activities/outputs, the personnel responsible for activities, start and end dates for activities, and the outcomes of said activity are clearly stated:

Environmental Statutes for Our Clean Land Project

The “Our Clean Land” Project’s goals, work plan and expected outcomes are designed to address the following federal environmental statutes: Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a): conduct and promote the coordination of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstration projects, surveys, public education programs, and studies relating to solid waste (e.g., health and welfare effects of exposure to materials present in solid waste and methods to eliminate such effects). In particular, the project will conduct surveys; create public education programs and support training related to solid waste management.

Our Clean Land - Partnerships

Current partnerships that will be utilized to support the projects activities will be accessed through the Tribe’s Environmental Director who currently serves as the alternate for the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Tribal RTOC(Regional Tribal Operations Committee) a and is the Los Coyotes representative for the Native American Environmental Protection Coalition (NAEPC) Board, RTOC Solid Waste Workgroup Participant, the So Cal Inter Tribal Stream Team and a Native American Water Masters Association participant.

The Native American Environmental Protection Coalition has pledged support of this program. This coalition currently services over a dozen California American Indian tribes and will offer assistance in researching SWM transfer station plans, as well allow program staff access to recycling literature for tribal outreach, and training.

V. Organizational Capacity and Programmatic Capacity

In terms of organizational capacity, the Los Coyotes Band of Indians has a well documented history of successfully running and grant funded programs, including EPA funded programs. This success is a direct result of having a strong Tribal Administration and Tribal Council, who work together for the good of the community.

Over the past 5 years the Los Coyotes Environmental Department has utilized funding from USEPA as granted through Clean Water 319 and 106 grants in addition to a General Assistance Program grant. Previous EPA GAP Project Officers have been:

Erskine Benjamin

Destine Cooper,

Pam Overman

Previous CWA 106 and 310 Project Officers have been:

Chris Chen

Janis Gomes,

Danielle Angeles

Mike Lehner

In addition to the previously mentioned EPA grants, the Tribe administers a Housing and Urban Development grant, BIA Aid to Tribal Governments (ATTG) program and the Housing Improvement Program (HIP) funds, a Health and Human Services Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) grant and 6 Department of Justice grants. It has also received funding through The Indian Child Welfare Act and Indian Health Services. The combined grant budget for the aforementioned programs is well over two million dollars. The Tribe retains, on contract, a full time Grant Coordinator/Project Director that works directly with the Tribe's Tribal Chairman and Council. In addition, this individual works directly with the Tribe's accounting personnel to ensure all grant deliverables are met through the duration of grant projects and that all required financial reports are submitted in a timely manner. The Tribe will maintain the EPA Small Justice Grant Program funds according to the terms prescribed by federal regulations.

The Tribe's Environmental Department anticipates on meeting on a weekly basis to discuss current grant activities and will work exclusively to ensure that grant activities follow the work

plan's presented activities, goals, and outcomes. In addition to this the environmental department will submit all quarterly reports to EPA in a timely manner, thoroughly explaining current status of projects with sign in sheets, meeting notes, pictures, etc. to document status of activities.

Accounting related to the project will be handled by the Tribe's current Fiscal Consultant and CPA, Jan Dyer. Ms. Dyer has over 10 years experience of administrating Tribal Government financial programs for the Los Coyotes Band of Indians including: BIA, DOJ, EPA, and ICDBG new housing construction and NAHASDA grants. Ms. Dyer's has extensive experience tracking budget versus actual expenditures, conducting bank reconciliations, preparing SF 425 quarterly reports, and preparing financial/ transaction reports. Ms. Dyer has developed strict internal controls for the Tribe by way of a system of checks and balances, and will create and submit all required, EPA specific financial reports for all activities completed under the grant

VI. Qualifications of the Project Manager

The Project Manager for the Our Clean Land project will be the Tribe's current Environmental Director, John Parada. Mr. Parada is an experienced, educated and motivated Tribal Programs Manager with over 17 years of experience. His knowledge base includes: Tribal Clean Air Programs, Tribal Water Pollution Control Programs, Tribal Non-Point Source Programs, and Tribal General Assistance Programs. He has previous experience in developing and creating partnerships with other local, tribal, state, and government agencies. These partnerships have aided the Tribe immensely in past in addressing designated environmental concerns and creating plans/projects to resolve issues to reduce the impacts upon the tribal land. With regards to Solid Waste Management, Mr. Parada developed a Solid Waste Management Plan for The La Posta Band of Mission Indians to assist them with the waste disposal for the Tribal Community which included a recycling program that was incorporated to minimize the waste stream. Initiating the implementation of this plan included numerous outreach and public speaking events which were funded by the recycling revenues generated.

Mr. Parada believes that outreach and environmental education is one of the most effective means in providing awareness on environmental concerns, preservation and pollution prevention methods in tribal communities. He prefers a "hands on" approach. Due to his successes in this area, he has been asked to present and conducted numerous presentations for the USEPA, the Northern Arizona University institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, and planned, assisted as a collaborative, and conducted numerous Tribal Earth Day Events.

Day to day project implementation including creation of surveys, outreach materials, meetings with tribal entities, and creation of the Solid Waste Management Transfer Station planning document will be completed by the Solid Waste Technician.

VII. Past Performance in Reporting on Outputs and Outcomes

iv. Environmental Results Past Performance

The following is a list of federal grants that the Tribe and Environmental Department has managed over the past three years. The inputs and outcomes are documented by program management staff. The following grants are current in narrative and fiscal reports.

Grant	Fiscal Years	Reporting	Reports/Status
1. EPA: General Assistance Program		Quarterly	Current on reports Active grant
Clean Water Act 106		Quarterly	Current on reports Active grant
Clean Water Act 319 NPS		Quarterly	Current on reports Active grant

VIII. Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Information

1. Involve the collection of groundwater, soil, sediment, surface water, air, biota or fauna samples for chemical or biological analysis – NO
2. Use existing computer databases containing analytical data or personal information previously collected – No
3. Use existing historical research pertaining to this project or proposal.
4. Implement deed searches for current property or site – NO
5. Conduct medical records search for the population covered in the grant – NO
6. Compile meteorological data to determine weather trends or air mixing trends – NO
7. Use existing statistical studies or will conduct these studies as part of the project – NO
8. Create a new database based on the information gathered – NO
9. Use information for litigation purposes – No
10. Use information to make recommendations on environmental decisions. – YES